

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2522
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 4976

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AF, PK, UR, CENTO
SUBJ: CENTO COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES MEETING, JULY 5, 1978

REF: (A) STATE 165966 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 167938 (NOTAL)
(C) STATE 166417 (NOTAL) (D) STATE 164450 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS (REFTELS) WHICH
ALLOWED US TO BE PARTICULARLY FORTHCOMING DURING COUNCIL
SESSION. REPORT ON AGENDA ITEMS OF INTEREST FOLLOWS:

2. AFGHANISTAN: BOTH IRAN AND PAKISTAN MADE UNUSUALLY SHORT
PRESENTATIONS NOTING THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN
CONTINUES TO GROW DAILY AND THAT "THERE ARE SIGNS" THAT
THE DRA "MAY SOON RAISE" THE ISSUES OF PUSHTUNISTAN AND
BALUCHISTAN. THE IRANIAN DEPUTY (CHARGE D'AFFAIRES)
READING FROM A PREPARED TEXT STATED THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE
HIRMAND RIVER, IRAN HOLDS AFGHANISTAN BOUND TO
PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS. THE PAKISTANI DEPUTY (SHAIKH) CONCLUDED
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HIS PRESENTATION EMPHASIZING HIS COUNTRY'S GROWING "APPREHENSION"
AND THE "NEED FOR HER ALLIES TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE
SUPPORT." THE TURKISH DEPUTY (SUBASI) NOTED ONLY THAT THE
GOT HAD VOICED ITS CONCERN ABOUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN
AFGHANISTAN AND ECHOED IRAN IN NOTING THAT THERE WAS SOME
INDICATION OF A "STRUGGLE" FOR POWER WITHIN RULING AFGHAN
COUNCILS.

3. THE UK DEPUTY (DODSON) MADE THE MOST INTERESTING AND LENGTHY REPORT IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAD "DRASTICALLY UPSET THE BALANCE" IN THE CENTO REGION AND THAT CENTO COULD NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT, LIKE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE SOVIETS MIGHT INVADE AFGHANISTAN AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE SHOULD THE USSR FEEL THAT ITS POSITION IN THAT COUNTRY WAS THREATENED. ON THE OTHER HAND, DODSON SAID, AFGHANISTAN "IS NOT YET A REPUBLIC OF THE USSR."

4. THE UK DEPUTY SAID THAT THERE IS EVIDENCE OF KHALQ-PARCHAM DISPUTES WITHIN THE DRA. THE RECENT ASSIGNMENT OF A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PARCHAM FACTION TO EMBASSIES INDICATES THAT A "CLEAN SWEEP" SEEMS TO BE IN THE MAKING. IN THIS REGARD, THE UK ASSUMES THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE APPROVED THIS PURGE OF PARCHAM ELEMENTS, TRADING THE STAUNCHLY PRO-SOVIET PARCHAM ELEMENT FOR THE POTENTIAL OF GREATER STABILITY THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE MORE NATIONALISTIC KHALQ FACTION.

5. THE UK DEPUTY STATED THAT THE ONLY SENSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION WAS TO CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN CAREFULLY AND THAT IN THIS CONTEXT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DRAW UP AN INDEX OF ACTIONS THAT THE DRA MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO INITIATE IF AFGHANISTAN WERE GOING TO "MAKE TROUBLE" FOR ITS NEIGHBORS. (THE SECRETARIATE WILL BE PREPARING SUCH A LIST)

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IN ADDITION, THE UK BELIEVES THAT IT MAY BE USEFUL TO REMIND THE DRA OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY WERE DEPENDENT UPON THE GOOD WILL OF THEIR NEIGHBORS FOR EXAMPLE, AFGHAN USE OF KARACHI AS A TERMINA FOR AFGHAN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS. FINALLY, DODSON SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE RECENT VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER DESAI TO LONDON, THE UK WAS CONVINCED THAT A MOSCOW-KABUL-NEW DELHI AXIS DID NOT REPEAT NOT EXIST.

6. AMBASSADOR SPIERS DREW UPON KABUL 4646 AND 5048 TO MAKE SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

7. REORGANIZATION: SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING, EMBOFFS DISCUSSED ALTERNATIVE REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS WITH THE UK AMBASSADOR ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 4, ANKARA 4156. SPECIFICALLY, EMBOFFS SAID THAT ONE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL COULD BE A SINGLE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WITH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS AND THREE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERALS FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND NRO. UNDER THIS SCHEME PAKISTAN WOULD TAKE THE SINGLE DEPUTY POSITION, THE UK THE POLITICAL SLOT

WHILE IRAN AND THE USG WOULD CONTINUE AS NRO AND DSG (ECONOMIC) RESPECTIVELY. ALTHOUGH EMBOFFS CAVEATED THEIR PRESENTATION AS SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE, UK AMBASSADOR INFORMED US JUST PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING THAT LONDON HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO SUPPORT "THE US INITIATIVE." WE REPLIED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD JUST INFORMED US THAT IT HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE SYG'S REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL. THE UK AMBASSADOR THEN SOUGHT AND RECEIVED LONDON AUTHORITY TO ADVANCE THE ALTERNATE REORGANIZATION SCHEME AS A UK INITIATIVE.

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8. AT COUNCIL MEETING AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE US SUPPORTED ANY REORGANIZATION FORMULA THAT STRENGTHENED CENTO AND ALLOWED EACH MEMBER TO MAKE THE MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID THAT THE US WAS WILLING TO GIVE UP ITS POSITION AS DSG (ECONOMIC) AND ASSUME THE NEW POST OF DSG (ADMINISTRATION) AS SUGGESTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID THAT HE FOUND MUCH THAT WAS COMMENDABLE IN THE UK PROPOSAL, PARTICULARLY IN THAT IT WOULD REDUCE FROM SIX TO FIVE THE NUMBER OF SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE SECRETARIAT.

9. ALTHOUGH THE TURKISH DEPUTY IMMEDIATELY STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT PREFERRED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL (PARA 1, ANKARA 4156), BOTH PAKISTAN AND IRAN SAID THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD SYMPATHETICALLY REVIEW THE UK PROPOSAL AS WELL AS THAT OF THE SYG. PAKISTANI DEPUTY SAID

THAT HE PERSONALLY FOUND MUCH FAVOR IN THE UK PROPOSAL AND AN IRANIAN EMBOFF TOLD US LATER THAT HE WOULD BE WRITING A POSITIVE ANALYSIS OF THE UK PROPOSAL TO TEHRAN.

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10. THE EMBASSY STILL BELIEVES THAT THE SUGGESTED REORGANIZATION SCHEME SUGGESTED IN ANKARA 4156 AND OUTLINED BY THE UK AS THEIR PROPOSAL IS THE BETTER OF THE TWO FORMULATIONS NOW TABLED. THE UK PROPOSAL WOULD KEEP BOTH THE UK AND THE US ENGAGED IN THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT RATHER THAN ON MORE MARGINAL AREAS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION RESPECTIVELY. WHILE WE AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT THAT ASSUMING THE POST OF DSG (ADMINISTRATION) WOULD ALLOW US TO KEEP A RESTRAINING HAND ON CENTO EXPENDITURES, IT COULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO MONITOR THE EXPENDITURE OF THE BULK OF OUR CONTRIBUTION WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DSG (ECONOMIC).

11. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE MAINTAINING OUR OFFER TO RELINQUISH THE POST OF DSG (ECONOMIC), WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT WHAT IS NOW THE UK REORGANIZATION INITIATIVE.

12. POLITICAL GUIDANCE AND MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS: AS INSTRUCTED (REF C), THE AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCED US AGREEMENT TO ALL PARAGRAPHS OF THE DRAFT POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER THAT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY HELD AD REFERENDUM. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WAS AGREEABLE TO PARTICIPATE ON A SHARED BASIS IN THE CENTO MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. PROVIDING THAT AN EQUITABLE FORMULA FOR COST SHARING ON THIS PROJECT CAN BE DEvised, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE US AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO REQUEST FUNDS FOR THE CENTO MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1980 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS OF COMMENTS ON EITHER OF THESE TWO STATEMENTS.

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